

**Willmar Community Education and Recreation  
Joint Powers Board Meeting  
March 21, 2014**

**Members Present:** Eric Banks, Andy Boersma, Bill Borth, Ross Magnuson, Pablo Obregon  
Bonnie Pehrson, Lynn Peterson, Rachel Smith

**Staff Present:** Steve Brisendine, Rob Baumgarn, Brad Bonk, LeAnne Freeman, Tammy  
Rudningen, Charlene Stevens, Becky Sorenson, Jena Tollefson, Jodi Wambeke

**Guests Present:** Nancy Lohn, Bob Mathiasen

President Eric Banks opened the meeting and introduced Nancy Lohn with West Central Builder's Association who was present to request permission to serve liquor at their event for two hours after the show for the displayers. A discussion followed regarding the necessity of organizations being required to request a temporary liquor license for their events. Charlene Stevens stated that the requirement was in the City ordinances and was something that could be changed if so desired. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the group to allow West Central Builder's Association to serve liquor to their vendors after the show was over.

Bob Mathiasen was present to discuss the amphitheatre project. An agreement has been made to build the amphitheatre as long as funds can be raised. Mr. Mathiasen discussed raising money with naming rights. If an organization or business wants naming rights (ie stage, bleachers, etc.) they can pay for them over the course of 10 years. The City would pay up front cost.

Bill Borth asked what security measures are being considered. Mr. Mathiasen responded that lights will be a major feature and is hoping that would be a deterrent. Bonnie Pehrson asked about parking, if there was enough on the Island to handle large crowds. It was mentioned that the Community Center parking lot could be used as overflow parking .

Mr. Mathiasen asked the opinion of the Board regarding the cost of naming rights. Naming rights is set up to raise just over half of the funds needed. Lynn Peterson asked the total cost of the facility - \$350,000. Charlene Stevens stated she felt the naming rights of the amphitheatre should be higher than \$50,000 for a ten year contract. After ten years, the City can go out and find another sponsor. The name would not be on the amphitheatre but on a plaque. Any name changes would be the organization's expense to change.

LeAnne presented her request regarding lifeguards for Robbins Island. Last year, due to budget cuts, lifeguards were cut at the Island and the Rice Park Wading Pool. Due to maintenance and other issues, the wading pool was unable to be opened. LeAnne gave a report of Robbins Island usage, 7,000

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in 2010, 3,000 in 2011. Averaging 3,000 people using the beach at the Island, and open an average of 35 days for the summer, LeAnne stated the cost for two lifeguards would be between \$2,500 and \$2,700. LeAnne asked for the opinion of the Joint Powers Board members.

Eric Banks stated he felt it was important to have lifeguards on the Island. Steve stated that there was money in the budget due to savings from not having the wading pool open along with conservative spending last year. Andy Boersma stated he felt it was important to have the beach open but questioned the water quality saying that people won't come due to that issue. Steve responded that he had spoken to Rick Reimer, Soil and Water Conservation District, asking for help in solving the problem. He has also left messages with the DNR and hasn't heard back from them yet.

Eric Banks said he felt that the beach is a free alternative to the Aquatic Center for those families who cannot afford paying Aquatic Center fees. Rachel Smith made a motion that we have life guards at Robbins Island this summer. Pablo Obregon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve informed the Board that he has met with members of the Little Crow Archery Club regarding an Archery park shooting range. The area by the old waste treatment plant, near Pleasantview Park, east of Cahswise is a probable location. Public Works already mows the area about twice a month. If this area is created as an archery park, there would be additional mowing mainly by the shooting line. Little Crow Archery will pay the cost of building, this will be a low cost to the City.

Bill Borth asked about enforcement of rules. Steve responded that police would drive by more frequently. Bonnie Pehrson asked about parking. Steve said there is a small area that would work. Pablo Obregon asked if there was any interest in using this area for another purpose. Steve said he had not heard of any. After further discussion, the consensus of the group was agreement to the plan as long as safety was practiced.

Strategic Plan – Steve has contacted two possible facilitators to get their input regarding a strategic plan. Meeting for an extended time on a regular board meeting date seemed to be the desire of the group.

Park Plan – Brad Bonk has sent out a survey to other communities asking about their park maintenance staffing. Currently we have \$30,000 per year for parks. Our parks have been poorly maintained for many years due to lack of funds.

Bill Borth asked about adding some physical activity classes and day trips. Tammy responded that the exercise classes we have offered in the past have had low registration numbers and day trips also have been poorly received.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be April 25.